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# Validation of the Genus Name *Darcyanthus* and Its Sole Species, *Darcyanthus spruceanus* (Solanaceae)

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**ABSTRACT.** The generic name *Darcyanthus* Hunz. (Solanaceae) was not validly published. The present paper provides validation both for the generic name and for the single included species, *D. spruceanus* (Hunz.) Hunz.

**Key words:** *Darcya*, *Darcyanthus*, Solanaceae.

In the process of identifying some Fosberg collections from Loreto Department, Peru, I came upon a collection of what is called in current literature *Darcyanthus spruceanus* (Hunz.) Hunz. I consulted the International Plant Names Index (IPNI) and discovered that the name was not validly published because the precise place of publication was not properly cited in various works by Hunziker. The name is herein validated with the precise pages of publication now given.

Hunziker (2000a) erected the genus *Darcya* Hunz. (although hom. illeg. superfl.) to honor the manifold contributions of William D’Arcy (1931–1999) to our understanding of the Solanaceae; the generic concept included but a single species, *Physalis spruceana* Hunz. The generic description complies with nomenclatural rules, and the combination in *Physalis* L. is likewise consonant with the rules. However, Hunziker soon learned of the existence of *Darcya* B. L. Turner & C. C. Cowan (Scrophulariaceae). Hunziker (2000b: 167) promptly published a correction, which is brief enough to quote in its entirety (with correction of a few typographical errors that have no nomenclatural significance):

“*Darcyanthus* nom. nov. substitutes [for] *Darcya* (Solanaceae).”

“Due to a regrettable oversight, the name *Darcya* B. L. Turner & C. Cowan (Scrophulariaceae, *Phytologia* 74(3): 268. 1993) was ignored by me, when I published *Darcya* Hunziker (Solanaceae, *Bol. Soc. Argent. Bot.* 35(1–2): 163–169. 2000). Thanks to the good will of colleagues, I have been alerted about my mistake, and I hasten to propose *Darcyanthus* nom. nov. (Solanaceae), to replace the illegitimate name; in consequence, the specific correct name should be *Darcyanthus spruceanus* (Hunziker) Hunziker comb. nov.”

The substitute name *Darcyanthus* Hunz. was not validly published because Hunziker failed to cite the specific page where *Darcya* Hunz. appeared (p. 167), instead citing a range of pages. This violates Article 33.4, especially Note 1, of the *International Code of Botanical Nomenclature* (McNeill et al., 2006). The combination *Darcyanthus spruceanus* (Hunz.) Hunz. is not validly published because Hunziker failed to cite the place of publication of the basionym, in addition to the fact that any combination involving an invalid generic name is itself invalid (Article 43.1).

In 2001, Hunziker’s *Genera Solanacearum* appeared (Hunziker, 2001). Therein (p. 249) appears language that might have served to validate the generic name *Darcyanthus*. However, once again, Hunziker failed to cite a specific page number for the original publication of his illegitimate *Darcya*; rather, he cited the same page range as in the brief article quoted above. (It may be noted in passing that this two-sentence paper was not included in the bibliography of Hunziker by Anton [2002].)

The combination *Brachistus spruceanus* (Hunz.) D’Arcy is cited in Hunziker (2001: 250) in an indirect way, but the name is not included in the index. In any case, Hunziker’s new system for the entire family would place *Brachistus* Miers in a different subtribe from *Darcyanthus*, though both are placed in the same tribe, Solaneae. It seems likely that future workers in the family will adopt much of Hunziker’s work; the necessity to validate Hunziker’s names therefore arises, with retention of the original authorship, as allowed by the Code, Article 46.2, Ex. 9, Note 1 (McNeill et al., 2006).

***Darcyanthus* Hunz.**, nom. nov. Replaced name: *Darcya* Hunz., *Bol. Soc. Argent. Bot.* 35(1–2): 167. 2000, non *Darcya* B. L. Turner & C. C. Cowan, *Phytologia* 74(3): 268. 1993. TYPE: *Darcya spruceana* (Hunz.) Hunz., nom. inval.

***Darcyanthus spruceanus* (Hunz.) Hunz.**, comb. nov. Basionym: *Physalis spruceana* Hunz., *Kurtziana* 1: 208. 1961. *Brachistus spruceanus* (Hunz.) D’Arcy, *Monogr. Syst. Bot. Missouri Bot. Gard.*

45: 1259. 1993. TYPE: Peru. Loreto: 24 Dec. 1931, *Ynes Mexia 6340* (holotype, NY; isotypes, BM, G, GH, K, UC).

Thus far, the genus is monotypic. According to Hunziker (2001), the species is known from the eastern rainforests of Peru (Amazonas, Ayacucho, Huánuco, Junín, Loreto, Madre de Dios, and San Martín departments), as well as Bolivia (La Paz and Pando departments), at elevations of 150–1100 m. A very detailed illustration (Hunziker, 2000a: 168; repeated as fig. 88, Hunziker, 2001: 251) complements a much simpler one in *Kurtziana* (Hunziker, 1961: 209).

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